

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 130814

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SO, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES TO SOMALIA

REFS: A) TEHRAN 4498; B) TEHRAN 4762; C) STATE 114562

WE HAVE NOT YET DISCUSSED WITH SOMALIS ANY SPECIFIC
LISTING OF EQUIPMENT WHICH US MIGHT SUPPLY AND THEREFORE
ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SHARE ANY SUCH LISTING WITH
IRANIANS AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS OF
HORN SITUATION WITH GOI, YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING
TALKING POINTS WHICH INDICATE CURRENT STATUS OF US-SOMALI
DISCUSSIONS AND AREAS IN WHICH IRANIANS MIGHT BE ABLE TO
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EXERT CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE ON SOMALIS:

-- WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED FROM SIAD BARRE ASSURANCES THAT
SOMALIA WILL NOT USE FORCE AGAINST ANY OTHER NATION,
WILL NOT EMPLOY ARMS GIVEN OR SOLD TO IT EXCEPT FOR
INTERNAL SECURITY OR LEGITIMATE DEFENSE OF ITS INTER-
NATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED TERRITORY, AND WILL NOT TRANSFER

US-SUPPLIED ARMS WITHOUT US CONSENT.

-- ON THAT BASIS, WE HAVE PROPOSED TO PRESIDENT SIAD THAT
A US MILITARY SURVEY TEAM VISIT SOMALIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE
TO EXAMINE SOMALIA'S NEEDS IN THE FIELDS OF ANTI-TANK

DEFENSE, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

-- HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN GREATLY DISTURBED BY INDICATIONS
OF DIRECT INVOLVEMENT BY THE SOMALI
GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE ETHNIC SOMALI INSURGENTS
IN THE OGADEN. SUCH ACTIVITY IS CONTRARY TO SIAD'S
ASSURANCES, WHICH CONSTITUTE A PLEDGE TO LIVE AT PEACE
WITH HIS NEIGHBORS.

-- WE HAVE INFORMED SIAD THAT WE ARE CONTINUING TO MONI-
TOR THIS SITUATION CLOSELY, AND THAT IF SOMALIA'S PEACE-
FUL INTENTIONS TOWARDS ITS NEIGHBORS SHOULD BE CAST INTO
SERIOUS DOUBT, THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING A MILITARY
SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP COULD BE INTERRUPTED AT ANY POINT.

-- WE ARE NOT ASKING SOMALIA TO RENOUNCE ITS INTEREST
IN THE WELFARE OF OTHER SOMALI PEOPLES IN THE REGION,
BUT SIAD MUST BE MADE TO REALIZE THAT SOMALIA CANNOT EX-
PECT TO SUCCEED IF IT PURSUES THIS INTEREST BY MILITARY
MEANS, AND THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES MAKE ANY US MILITARY
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SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA IMPOSSIBLE.

-- WE HOPE THAT IRAN, AS A FRIEND OF SOMALIA, CAN HELP
PERSUADE SIAD TO REFRAIN FROM MILITARY ACTIVITIES WHICH
BOTH UNDERMINE STABILITY IN THE HORN AND THREATEN THE
PROSPECTS FOR AN EXPANDED US-SOMALI RELATIONSHIP.

-- IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR IRAN TO UNDER-
STAND THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO BUILD A COMPREHEN-
SIVE STRATEGY OF DETERRENCE TO SOVIET/CUBAN ADVANCES,
INVOLVING THE KENYANS AND ENJOYING THE ACCEPTANCE OF
OTHER AFRICAN STATES, IF SOMALIA IS PERCEIVED BY THOSE
STATES AS CONTINUING IN ITS PURSUIT OF HISTORIC
IRREDENTISM. SO LONG AS THIS IS THE CASE, KENYA WILL,
RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, TEND TO SIDE WITH ETHIOPIA, AND THE
US, IF WE WERE TO ESTABLISH AN ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP
WITH SOMALIA, WOULD BE SEEN BY AFRICAN STATES AS THE
SUPPORTER OF A WOULD-BE DEFIER OF THE SACRED PRINCIPLE
OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. EITHER OR BOTH REACTIONS
WOULD TEND TO UNDERMINE THE EFFICACY OF OUR POLICY

VIZ-A-VIZ THE SOVIETS/CUBA. VANCE

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